

New South Wales Police

STATEMENT in matter of:  
Death of David ROSE

Place: Mosman Police Station  
Date: 9 January, 1998

Name: ROSE, Bertha Ruth

Tel No.: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED] Balmoral

Occupation: School Teacher

States:-

1. This statement made by me accurately sets out the evidence which I would be prepared, if necessary, to give in court as a witness. The statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

2. My age is 63 ([REDACTED]/[REDACTED]/34)

3. I am currently employed by the Board of Jewish Education as a school teacher. I work at different schools and last year worked on Wednesday's and Thursday's. I teach scripture to primary classes. I am not sure what day's I will work this year.

4. On August the 2nd, 1955 I married Max ROSE in Auckland, New Zealand. On the 26th of April, 1956 I gave birth to David Samuel ROSE at the National Womens Hospital in Auckland. On the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] 1958 I gave birth to Ian Grant ROSE at the [REDACTED] [REDACTED].

5. In June, 1961 I moved to Australia with my husband and children. We lived in Manly for about a month and then moved to a flat in Queenscliff where we lived for about 12 months. About the end of 1962 we moved into a house [REDACTED], Balgowlah Heights and we lived at this house for about 15 years. Both David and Ian went to Balgowlah Primary and High Schools.

Witness: [REDACTED]

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6. From the time that we came to Australia my husband has always been employed as an accountant. He is now a consultant financial advisor and works at different locations. I did not work when the boys were small but when the children were at High school I started work part time. Since then I have worked off and on part time doing different things.

7. As a child David was happy and was involved in sports such as swimming and tennis. He was always very interested in the radio and from a young age he wanted to be a disc jockey. His interest in radio continued throughout his life. David always had a good relationship with both his father and myself. Ian and David had normal squabbles as children but became closer when they were adults. We were a very close family because our extended family lived overseas and we didn't have any relatives in Australia.

8. David was a premature baby and was a small child. David was self conscious about his height and used to get teased at school. It concerned me that David was teased about his height so when he was about 12 years old, I took him to a Doctor at the Royal North Shore Hospital. He gave David 'Human Growth Hormone' which he took for about 2 years. I don't think that the hormone helped David much because he only grew to about 5ft 11inch.

9. David was a good student throughout his life and while at school had a lot of friends of both sexes. David went to the University of New South Wales straight from school. He started off studying electrical engineering and then he changed over to computer science. He was at university for about 4 or 5 years. When David went to university he was about 17 years old. He moved out of home and into the 'Shalom College' on the grounds of the New South Wales University. He lived there until he

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finished his university education.

10. Ian left school when he was about 16 years old and he got a job but I can't remember where. He went overseas when he was about 18 and remained overseas for about 12 months. When he returned he moved back to our house and then left home some time after his 21st birthday. He left home just after his 21st Birthday because he joined the Navy. He spent most of his time in the Navy at Nowra at HMAS Albatross. I think he was in the Navy for about 4 years. While Ian was in the Navy he came home regularly, probably every 3 or 4 weeks. If Ian came home on a Friday night Ian and David still came to our Friday night dinners.

11. I think Ian was about 25 when he left the Navy and he came back to live in Sydney with us for a little while. My father left some money to both the boy's. David used the money as a deposit for the unit in Addison Street, Kensington and Ian used his money for a deposit on the unit he live in at Bondi. He has been there ever since. Ian had a lot of trouble settling down. According to his teachers he had a very high I.Q but never lived up to it. Ian had a lot of different jobs mainly in photography and he has always worked in sales apart from when he was in the Navy. He is currently employed as a salesman in a computer company, 'NASA TECHNOLOGY, in the city.

12. When David left university he was about 22 or 23 years old and he worked for the Department of Taxation for about 12 months. When David left the Department of Taxation he worked for the Westpac Bank and has done so ever since. David has always been employed as a computer analyst and has worked at a few different locations in the city. He worked most of the time at the branch at King and George Street. He has worked for the

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Westpac Bank for about 18 years.

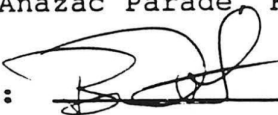
13. When David left university he moved into a flat at Paddington by himself and then he moved into a flat in Randwick which he shared with a girl. I can't remember her name but I know she became a doctor and I think she moved to Western Australia. David lived in Randwick for about 18 months and then he bought a unit in Anzac Parade, Kensington. He lived in the unit by himself. I think he lived there for about 10 years. Around 1991 he bought a unit at [REDACTED] Addison Street, Kensington. He rented out the unit in Anzac Parade and moved into the unit in Addison Street. He has lived in the unit in Addison Street ever since.

14. When David was about 19 years old and at university a friend of mine called me and told me that her son had seen him dressed in womens clothing. Her son went to the same university as David. I didn't pay a lot of attention to it. I thought he may have gone to a dress up party or something.

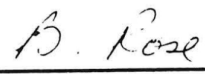
15. When David was about 21 years old, David spoke to myself and my husband when we were at home. He told us that he felt he should have been a girl and that he would feel more comfortable as a girl. We were quite shocked and suggested that he see a counsellor. He told us that he saw a counsellor at the University of New South Wales and that the counsellor suggested he think about it before he do anything further. We didn't discuss the subject very much. I was very upset about it and I think David knew this.

16. More than 5 years ago but not as many as ten years ago, I think that I went with my husband to visit David at his unit in Anzac Parade, Kensington. I think David was sick and we went

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around to visit him. I put something away in his wardrobe and I found some women's clothing in his wardrobe. I probably discussed this with him but I don't really remember it. David never told me that he wore women's clothing. I assumed it because of the clothes I had found in his wardrobe. I thought he only did it at home and didn't know that he went out dressed in women's clothing.

17. Our family is Jewish by religion. Friday night is the eve of our Sabbath and it is traditional for families to have a meal on Friday evenings. Since the time that David and Ian left home, they would normally come home on Friday night for dinner. When David came to our house on Friday nights he would sometimes wear womens bangles. He usually wore a gold signet ring on his right hand. There was an inscription on the ring with the letters 'AB'. The ring used to belong to my father. He usually wore a fine gold chain around his neck with some type of pendant and earrings. He had lots of different earrings that he used to wear.

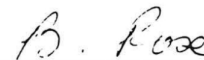
18. The only time I have ever seen him wear makeup was less than 12 months ago, when he came to my house wearing blue mascara. I got very upset about this and I told I did not like it and would prefer him not to wear it. I have also seen him wear nail polish. The clothing that he would normally wear would be jeans and a collared shirt. The shirt would sometimes be pink. Occasionally I would meet David in the city and have lunch with him. On those times he was never wearing women's clothing and once or twice he may have been wearing women's shoes.

19. Since David moved out of home we visited him now and again. He didn't discourage our visits but didn't actively encourage us to visit unless invited. He used to invite us over to dinner

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occasionally and he would cook for us. Whenever we went it would usually be Max, Ian and myself.

20. I am sure that David was fairly secure financially. I believe that he owned his unit in Anzac Parade, Kensington. He has people living in it who rent it from him but I don't know anything about them. I think David was paying off his unit at Addison Road, Kensington. I'm sure he would have had money in the bank and I don't believe he had any debts.

21. David did not smoke, drink or gamble and as far as I'm aware was in good health. He used to walk everywhere and he would even walk to and from work. I used to be worried about him walking home in the dark in winter but I don't think he ever had any trouble.

22. David was always very busy socially. We didn't meet his friends and if I ever asked who he was going out with he said "you don't know them." When he was going to university I know that he had 2 girlfriends. One girl came to stay with us for the weekend. I can't remember her name. He was affectionate towards this girl and he might hold her hand or put his arm around her. I think he went out with her for about 6 months. He did not tell me why he broke up with this girl and I don't remember him being terribly upset about it.

23. He told me about another girl that he was going out with but I did not meet her and I don't know if he ever told me her name. I think he went out with her for about 3 months. Since David left university he has not mentioned going out with a girl in a sexual relationship. I am assuming that the friendship he had with these girls was a normal male/female relationship. I got this impression because of the way he acted with the one

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girl that I met and the way he spoke of these women.

24. I never discussed David's sexual preference with him. I felt quite sure that he wasn't gay. I believe that a lot of David's friends were women and that he related better with women than with men.

25. I think David felt more able to discuss things with his father than me. David's father was less judgemental than I am. Sometimes I would say things to David about him dressing like a woman. It might be something like "I don't like it when you wear nail polish". We used to disagree about this but I wouldn't comment on it very often. I was not happy about this aspect of David's life. To a certain extent I discussed this with my husband but he used to tell me to leave him alone and he would tell me that I was just upsetting David and myself.

26. My husband didn't like David dressing as a woman any more than I did. He might make comments occasionally to David but this would be less often than I would. I did not discuss this much with Ian but he was often with David when I made a comment. I used to try not to bring it up because I knew it was a futile discussion. It was always at the back of my mind and I just kept hoping it might go away. I didn't talk about this to anybody at all.

27. I think Ian just accepted David the way he was. If I ever said anything to David about the way he dressed or the nail polish he would wear, Ian would say "Leave him alone." Ian always admired David from the time he was a little boy. Ian was certainly not as upset by David's dressing as I was and I think he just accepted that David wanted to that and I should as well.

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28. I think David was financially secure and I know he owned the unit in Anzac Parade, Kensington and he was paying off the unit he live in at Addison Street. David has always been very good with his money.

29. David would go on an overseas holiday about every 2 years. He used to go away for an average of about 4 - 5 weeks. He used to travel by himself. I never looked after his unit when he was away but to the best of my recollection he used to have someone live in his unit or they used to pop in to water his plants. Once or twice David told me who had stayed in his unit but I can't recall who they may be.

30. I don't know how many keys he had to his unit but I have a feeling there may have been 2 sets. Different people used to stay in his unit and look after if he went away so they must have had keys. David would definitely have taken a set with him when he went overseas. I don't know any of the people that have occasionally stayed at his unit. He had someone living in his unit once when he was away about 6 years ago. This girl may have worked at 2SER but I can't remember her name. She locked herself out of the unit and she rang me to see if we had another set of keys to the unit. We didn't and she had to get a locksmith to let her in.

31. When David came back from his holiday I suggested that David give us a set of keys to his unit but he didn't want to give anyone a set of keys to his unit. I don't know what the keys to his unit looked like. I think he may have kept them in a key purse. The colour may have been beige but I really can't be sure of that. I don't know where he kept the keys at home. He was very security conscious.

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32. His doors were always locked and if we ever came over he would ask us to wait while he found his keys to let us in. When we went into his unit I think he locked the doors behind him. There as a wire security door which needed keys to lock it and the front door to the unit had key locking dead locks. There was a door in his unit which led to his verandah. I never ever saw this door shut. In the middle of winter he would always leave it open.

33. I don't think anyone else has lived with David at any time. He never said anything about a person named 'Sandra' staying with him. As far as I know he has never spoken about anyone named Sandra.

34. David was a volunteer at two radio stations, 2RPH which stood for 'RADIO PRINT HANDICAPPED'. I don't know what 2 SER stands for. I think he worked at the radio stations for many years. I think he was at the stations about 5 times a week in the evenings. He did an early morning shift at one of them and he used to do a weekend afternoon shift as well. He left 2RPH about 6 months ago. I don't think he liked the station manager. He said he didn't treat the volunteer's very well. He said that nobody at the radio station liked him.

35. I used to speak to David most days on the telephone. We didn't speak for very long, we just used to say 'Hi'. I was sick with pneumonia for the week prior to David's death. On Wednesday the 17th of December, 1997 I called David at his work because he hadn't called me. David normally called me to say hello because I didn't like disturbing him at work. David wasn't at work when I rang and I called him at home. He told me he was feeling nauseasous and had very severe headaches and he had come home from work.

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36. David didn't get sick much. He had asthma as a child and used to suffer from hayfever but other than that he was pretty healthy. When I spoke to him on the 17th of December, 1997 I suggested he should go to the doctor. David agreed and said he would go the following day. We talked for about 5 minutes. I was very concerned and told him that his father would come over and bring him some food but he told me that he was alright and had food in the house.

37. On Thursday the 18th of December, 1997 one of us rang the other. He told me he was still feeling awful and he was going to the doctor. He said that he would ring me after he had been to the doctor. He rang me later that day and said that the doctor couldn't find anything wrong and gave him a general antibiotic. I offered to send someone over with some food but he said he had enough in the house. He sounded pretty sick. He said he had been sleeping off and on for most of the day. He said he was feeling too sick to come over the next night which was Friday. I told him I was too sick to cook a meal and we left it at that.

38. On Friday the 19th of December, 1997 David rang me and told me he was bored and fed up. He thought he might go into work for a bit. He said he was feeling a little bit better. I told him that I didn't think it was a good idea because he had been so sick. He said he was just very bored. We didn't talk for long because neither of us were feeling well enough to talk for long.

39. On Saturday the 20th of December, 1997 I rang David somewhere between 10 and 11am. We asked each other how we were feeling. David said he was a bit better but still very tired. We didn't really talk about anything else. He sounded a little better but he sounded very tired. I rang later in the day to see if he had spoken to my mother. He used to ring my mother every

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Saturday afternoon. I didn't want him to tell my mother that I was sick because I didn't want her worrying about it. My mother lives in Auckland, New Zealand. I think it may have been around 2.00pm but I can't be sure. When I rang the phone rang out. David never goes out without putting his answering machine on and I commented about this to my husband.

40. I left it for a while, perhaps an hour and then I rang again and his phone was engaged. I kept ringing and the phone continued to be engaged. Max rang complaints in the early evening and they told him that David's phone was off the hook. At sometime in the afternoon after I found his phone engaged, I rang Ian and told him that I hadn't been able to get hold of David. I asked him David's mobile number but Ian didn't know what it was. The mobile phone belonged to Westpac and he usually had it with him. I stopped trying to ring David about 9.00pm. During that day I was at home all day because I was sick in bed and I'm sure that Max was at home as well for the entire day.

41. I thought that he may have knocked the phone off the hook because he wasn't well, and he wasn't aware of it. I didn't think he had purposely taken the phone off the hook because I had suggested he do this the day before and he told me that he wouldn't do this because someone may try to call him about something important.

42. On Sunday the 21st of December, 1997 I tried very early in the morning to get him and the phone was still engaged. When it was still engaged at lunch time I suggested to Max that we should go to David's home. Max didn't want me to get out of bed but I insisted on going with him. We got to David's house sometime after lunch, it could have been about 2 - 2.30pm. When we went to David's front door, the wire door was shut. I opened

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the wire door and there was a plastic bag in between the wire door and front door. There was a parcel wrapped in Christmas paper inside the plastic bag. I picked up the parcel, had a look at it and then put it back. I rang the doorbell several times and then the doorbell stopped working. We banged the door quite hard but no-one answered. The front wooden door of the unit was locked. I wrote out a note on a 'Post It' note asking David to call me and I stuck it on the door.

43. Max and I went home and I went back to bed. I tried to call David later on in the day but the phone was still engaged. I rang Ian and I told him that we hadn't been able to get hold of David. Ian told me that he had been trying to get hold of him as well but couldn't. I told him that I would keep on trying to get David and if I couldn't get hold of him the next day I would ring the Police. Ian said that he thought David had probably just gone out and that David would be at work on the Monday. On that day I stayed home in bed apart from when I went to David's unit and Max also stayed at home.

44. On Monday the 22nd of December, 1997 I tried to ring David first thing in the morning and still got the engaged signal. I waited until 9am and I rang his office. I can't remember whether someone picked up the phone and said he wasn't there or whether I got his voice mail. I rang Ian at home and told him that I still couldn't get hold of David and that I was really getting worried and that I was going to call the Police. I rang Randwick Police Station and I told them that I was concerned about my son who hadn't been well and that his phone had been engaged since Saturday. The Policeman said that they would send someone around to have a look. I said that I would like to be there. The Policeman told me that they would wait until I got to the Police Station until they sent someone around.

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45. I rang Ian and I told him that I was going to the Police Station and he suggested that I pick him up and he would come with me. Ian was not at work because his place of business had closed down during the Christmas period. I rang Max at work and told him what I was doing. He asked me to let him know what happened. Sometime around 9.15am I went outside ready to go to the Police Station and the phone rang but I missed it. I went back inside and found that a message had been left by a person named Steve BECKER and he asked me to ring him about David. I rang him straight away,

I said, "It's Beth Rose and I'm David's mother."


He said, "I'm concerned about David because I've been trying to ring him and his phone is constantly engaged."

I said, "I'm also concerned because I've been trying to ring him and I'm on my way to the Police Station."

46. I can't remember the exact conversation I had with him but he said similar things to I've been friends with David for a long time and I've always had a great deal of respect for David. He told me that he'd worked alongside David at one of the radio stations. He told me how wonderful he was. I think I told him that David had not been well and I think he told me that he had spoken with David and he was aware that wasn't well.

47. When he spoke about David he spoke of him in the past tense. This really worried me because I was already concerned about David. He really just rambled on and in the end I told him I had to go.

48. I think I left home about 9.20am and I drove to Bondi and picked Ian up and then drove to Randwick Police Station. When I went to the Police Station I went through the whole story again. The Policeman told me to go to the unit and that they would send

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a Police car around as soon as they could get one. When we got there Max was waiting outside. He told us that he'd been anxious so he thought he'd come over. The Police came and they had a look. I pointed out David's unit and showed them that the back door of David's unit was open. I told the Policeman that the door was usually always open.

49. The Policeman told me that he would get the Police Rescue Squad. We waited for the Police Rescue Squad to come. When they arrived one of the Police climbed up a ladder and got onto David's balcony. He called out to David and when he got no reply he climbed in. He went away and came back and he asked for someone to come up to the front door of David's unit. Max said, "I'll go." One of the Policeman told Max that he would go instead.

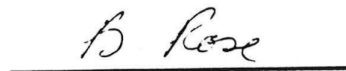
50. The Policeman who had been inside the unit climbed down the ladder and he said to us, "He's deceased." Ian broke down and he said, "I'll kill that rotten doctor." We asked if we could go in and see him but the Police told us that we couldn't. When we asked why not they said there was blood around his nose and his mouth and they said there could possibly be suspicious circumstances. They said we would have to wait until they could get the crime squad out. The Police told us that we would have to stay there.

51. Ian was terribly upset and he said to one of the Police would they mind if he rang one of his friends to see if he could come over to be with him. The Police said it was alright. Ian rang a friend Alex and he came over straight away. At some point one of the Police came and told us that we would have to go to Maroubra Police Station and see one of the Detectives. They asked if Ian could stay to identify David.

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52. Alex drove Max and I to the Police Station in my car and we spoke with Detective O'REILLY. When we had finished at the Police Station, Detective O'REILLY came back with us to our house. Later in the day Stephen BECKER called and spoke to Max and he wanted to know what had happened to David.

53. I can't think of any enemies that David had or any reason why David may have been killed.

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Witness: *[Signature]*  
Det. G F  
Eastern Seaches  
7-3-98

Signature: *B Rose*